



## Match Report

Opponents: Annual Montreal Irish Fall XV's

Date: 4 Sep 06

|          |        |    |                                |    |
|----------|--------|----|--------------------------------|----|
| Matches: | Navy A | 39 | Montreal Irish A               | 5  |
|          | Navy A | 10 | Burlington A                   | 20 |
|          | Navy B | 14 | Boston Men's Club B            | 16 |
|          | Navy A | 73 | Montreal/Charlotte Combination | 7  |

### Match #1: Navy A v. Montreal Irish A

The Navy Men's Rugby team journeyed to Canada to face some experienced Men's Clubs in the Annual Montreal Irish Fall XV's. Despite the duration of travel, the ill weather and the short preparation time available for the Mids they excelled in both A and B side matches.

Their first match was against their Canadian hosts. The Mids started off a fierce match early on with a try two minutes into the first half by flanker Andrew Vagley. Flanker Kevin Mott barely missed the steep-angled conversion and the score was 5-0. Only nine minutes later the Mids again scored, this time with weak-side wing Jordan Fogler scoring the try. This time Mott made good on the conversion, 12-0. The scoring continued up until the twenty-minute mark with tries from Fogler and Outside Center Mike Humara. Both conversion kicks, one from Kevin Mott and one from Flyhalf Graham Cleveland, were missed due in no small part to the blustery winds.

The second half saw more Navy offense amid a lone strike from the Irish. In the seven-minute mark the Montreal scored a try but missed the conversion, making the score 22-5. Only seven minutes later 8-man Clayton Sears scored a try, but Cleveland missed the conversion, 27-5. After some hard fighting amongst the forwards, the Navy pack managed to put Vagley into the try-zone two more times at twenty-three and twenty-eight minutes. Fogler made one of two conversion kicks and the final score was 39-5.

All in all the two sides both fought hard but the defense of the Navy backs and the well-executed phase play of their forwards won them the day.

### Match #2

Navy A v. Burlington A

Navy's second match of the opening day was against the defending tournament champions Burlington. Burlington was not only the defending champions but was also in their season prime, having been practicing and

playing all summer. This is in stark contrast to that of the Mids, who have only been practicing for two weeks since the beginning of their fall semester in Annapolis.

Despite the inequalities the two sides fought bitterly and nearly scoreless in the first half. The only points came from the boot of Navy fullback Adam Young, making the score 3-0 Navy at the half.

The second was nearly all Burlington as they came off the sidelines fired up. They scored a try off the kickoff but missed the conversion, making the score 3-5. They scored again shortly thereafter, having seemingly found a gap in Navy's defense, but again missing the conversion, now 10-3.

But Navy was determined to get even as outside center Mike Humara pounded his way into the try zone. Young made the conversion to tie at 10 all.

After that heroic effort it was all Burlington: they scored two more tries and held the Navy offense in check, ending the game 20-10.

The Navy pack seemed to have a trouble scrumming and executing lineouts against the experienced men from Burlington. These two elements of the game are usually two of Navy's strongest assets. There is no doubt this humbling experience will only better them in the rest of their season.

### Match #3

#### Navy B v. Boston Men's Club B

Navy's next match was mostly reserves, players just recently brought up from the C or even D sides of the team. Boston's experience and knowledge of the game enabled them to put very smart players on the field against the young Mids.

Boston opened up the scoring with their backs, teasing Navy with their back and forth passing reminiscent of a VII's match. This mentality cost them on the next set of attacks as Navy Outside center Tyson Metlen intercepted a pass and ran it down the pitch, leaving the Bostonians far behind. He converted his own try and evened the score at 7 all.

On their next possession Boston scored off a drop kick to make the score 10-7. Their experience kicking the ball showed again as they earned a penalty and made the score a frustrating 13-7.

The next score for Navy came from the leadership of a Navy Alum, Ensign Mac Marrone. He led the Navy players in a six-phase effort down the pitch after a tap and go to take the lead 14-13, with Metlen's second conversion.

Late in the game Boston sealed the deal with a penalty kick, ending the game with a two-point win at 16-14.

The young (and old) navy players fought hard against a very experienced men's team. The Navy pack was especially young but fought all sixty minutes.

#### Match #4

Navy A v. Montreal/Charlotte  
Combination

Navy's final match was one against a Montreal/Charlotte combination of players. Navy opened up the scoring shortly into the game as wing Chase Hobby made a diving try at the corner. Hobby attempted his own conversion but missed, 5-0 Navy. Flanker Jack Damon scored the next try up the middle, this time Hobby made good on his kick, making the score 12-0. Cleveland scored next followed by Team Captain and lock Blake Lindsay, with both conversions by Hobby made good, score now 26-0.

The Montreal/Charlotte men scored next after a series of penalties in the Navy end and made the kick, score line 26-7.

But Navy responded with authority with two more tries and matching conversions, one from fullback Paul Bailey after assists from Cleveland and Peterson and another from Lindsay after hard fighting within the 5m. Score at half 40-7 Navy.

Given the high score Navy Coach Mike Flanagan saw it fit to give his younger guys even more experience. And they did not disappoint.

Scrumhalf Dewey, Wing Metlen and Wing Ryan Bohning had one, two and two tries, respectively, with only one conversion missed by Young.

The final score was an astounding 73-7 Navy over the combined Montreal/Charlotte side. The young but eager and strong players of the Navy sides won the day against the more experienced men of Montreal and Charlotte.